

What we claim is:

1 1. A lock, comprising:

2 a housing bearing an interior recess containing a pair of axially aligned and spaced
3 apart detents, said housing being positionable to control access by alternately assuming a locked
4 state and an unlocked state;

5 a mechanism removably insertable within said recess, said mechanism
6 comprising:

7 a single annularly wound coil of insulated wire forming a circular cylinder
8 surrounding a central axially oriented bore, said wire terminating in a single pair of leads
9 with axially opposite base ends of said coil being perforated by said bore;

10 a pair of armatures each exhibiting a distal end, said armatures being made
11 of a material that is movably responsive to magnetic force, and being slidably positioned
12 at axially opposite ends of said bore, in coaxially aligned axial opposition; and

13 means coaxially aligned with said armatures, biasing both of said
14 armatures to extend said distal ends axially outwardly beyond axially opposite base ends
15 of said coil;

16 said housing holding said mechanism with said bore being axially aligned
17 between said detents, with said detents providing simultaneous engagement of different ones of
18 said distal ends and maintaining said locked state; and

19 said distal ends both withdrawing axially away from said engagement and towards

- 20 said bore to place said lock in said unlocked state in response to application of a potential
- 21 difference across said pair of leads.

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1. A method of operating a lock, comprising:
2. providing a lock assembly having a bore and a pair of leads;
3. applying a potential difference across the pair of leads;
4. in response to the application of the potential difference, the lock assembly moving from a locked state to an unlocked state;
5. wherein the lock assembly is a magnetic lock assembly.